

Approved by the Charlotte-
Mecklenburg Board of Education
February 9, 2010
Regular Board Meeting



Charlotte, North Carolina

July 28, 2009

**REGULAR MEETING
of the
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education held a Regular Board Meeting on July 28, 2009. The meeting began at 5:04 p.m. and was held in Room CH-14 of the Government Center.

Present: Molly Griffin, Chairperson, District 5;
Joe I. White, Jr., Member At-Large;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Kimberly Mitchell-Walker (District 2);
James Ross (District 3); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: Kaye McGarry, Vice-Chairperson, Member At-Large;
Larry Gauvreau (District 1); and
Tom Tate (District 4)

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; André F. Mayes, Acting General Counsel/Deputy General Counsel; Hugh Hattabaugh, Chief Operating Officer; Tyler Ream, Chief of Staff; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

Upon motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Merchant, the Board voted unanimously of those present for approval to go into Closed Session for the following purposes:

- **To consult with the Board's attorneys on matters covered by the attorney-client privilege including but not limited to legal advice relating to real estate transactions and negotiations;**
- **To consult with the Board's attorneys on matters covered by the attorney-client privilege concerning a pending workers' compensation claim by Lorie B. Hill; and**
- **To consider and/or take action regarding student matters that is privileged, confidential, and not a public record.**

The motion was made pursuant to Section 143-318.11(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The Board held a Closed Session meeting from 5:04 p.m. to 6:02 p.m.

Chairperson Griffin reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 6:10 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Government Center. CMS-TV Channel 3 televised the meeting.

Present: Molly Griffin, Chairperson, District 5;
Kaye McGarry, Vice-Chairperson, Member At-Large;

Joe I. White, Jr., Member At-Large;
Trent Merchant, Member At-Large;
Kimberly Mitchell-Walker (District 2);
James Ross (District 3);
Tom Tate (District 4); and
Ken Gjertsen (District 6)

Absent: Larry Gauvreau (District 1)

Also present at the request of the Board were Dr. Peter Gorman, Superintendent; André F. Mayes, Acting General Counsel/Deputy General Counsel; Members of Executive and Senior Staffs; Judy Whittington, Manager of Board Services; and Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Chairperson Griffin welcomed everyone to the Board's only meeting for the month of July which is being held in the Meeting Chamber.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Griffin called upon Trent Merchant to lead those present and in the viewing audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Merchant invited everyone to stand and join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson Griffin called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Ms. McGarry moved, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board adopt the agenda as presented, and the Board voted 7-0 in support of the motion. Mr. Tate was absent at the time of the vote and Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

II. REQUEST FROM THE PUBLIC

Chairperson Griffin informed the audience that each speaker would have three minutes to address the Board. Ms. Griffin said this is a business meeting and she asked the speakers and audience to act accordingly.

Two people encouraged the Board to include Sardis Forest neighborhood in the proposed boundaries for the new Mint Hill high school and requested reassignment for the 2010-2011 school year. They are currently assigned to Greenway Park Elementary, McClintock Middle, and East Mecklenburg High schools and requested reassignment to Matthews Elementary, Crestdale Middle, and Butler High Schools. This is the only area in their neighborhood assigned to an East Mecklenburg feeder pattern. They submitted a neighborhood proposal and petition for the Board's consideration.

- Catherine Hall
- Lisa Kisshauer

Mr. Tate arrived at the Regular Board meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Ward McKeithen, former CMS Board of Education member, shared his thoughts in general regarding CMS. He has been a resident in CMS for forty-three years, his three children attended and graduated from CMS, and three of his grandchildren attend CMS schools. He firmly believes that strong and effective public education dedicated to the well-being and quality of education of each child is crucial to our common good and democracy. He commended Dr. Peter Gorman, as our school Superintendent, for his guidance during these challenging circumstances, particularly with the drastic reductions of funding to the school system and the decisions regarding layoffs of dedicated teachers and personnel. He commended Dr. Gorman for handling those tough decisions with wisdom, compassion, and dedication to all of the CMS schools, staff, and students. Mr. McKeithen has the highest gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Gorman.

Hans Plotseneder, CMS teacher and Mecklenburg County citizen, discussed his concerns regarding the lack of activity of the Board regarding the budget and he encouraged the Board to focus on student achievement and reducing the dropout rates. He expressed concern that the Board is laying off teachers but hiring Teach for America teachers.

Five speakers discussed their concerns regarding the start time change for Northwest School of the Arts from 7:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. The time change will not allow students to attend after school activities and sports; limit after school jobs and the potential of college scholarships; students, parents, and teachers were not given an opportunity to provide input on this decision; students will be forced to drive during peak rush hours; and this decision will cause hardships on parents and students.

- Justina Hauss, rising sophomore at Northwest School of Arts
- Kevin Caldwell, rising junior at Northwest School of the Arts.
- Kent Cloy, parent of a rising sophomore at Northwest School of the Arts.
- Kylie Price, rising sophomore at Northwest School of the Arts.
- Cindy Price, spoke on behalf of parents at Northwest School of the Arts.

Two speakers encouraged the Board to not cut school social worker positions, counseling positions, and social programs and they discussed the benefits of social workers to the school system and students.

- Jack Register, director of advocacy and legislation for the National Association of Social Workers, North Carolina Chapter, and registered lobbyist for the State. He represented school social workers and social workers as a whole. He offered his and his organization's assistance as a resource in helping to organize locally and to deal with the difficult budget decisions.
- Danielle Coleman, representative of the National Association of Social Workers, North Carolina Chapter.

Blanche Penn, represented the "Million Fathers March" men taking children to school on the first day of school. This is an initiative to get men more involved in the lives of children and their schools. She invited everyone to attend a rally on August 15th. She encouraged all schools to welcome the men with a smiling face as they bring children to school. She also encouraged the Board to have an answer for the students and parents and to be involved.

Jessica Otto, parent of CMS students, represented the neighborhoods of Timberlake and High Timbers. These neighborhoods support the Sardis Forest neighborhood request to be reassigned to Crestdale Middle and Butler High schools but she recommended that the

boundary line be drawn at Sardis Road north. She submitted a proposal for the Board's consideration. They partially support the Community Option 3.

Two people discussed the new Mint Hill high school boundaries and encouraged the Board to support the Mint Hill Proposal as presented by the Town of Mint Hill. They proposed that the three different school districts of Lebanon Road, Clear Creek, and Bain elementary schools share in the new facility and that the Board should give the students living in Mint Hill top priority to attend the new high school. They encouraged the Board to keep the Mint Hill communities together.

- Mayor Ted Biggers.
- Clark Goodman.
- Al Thomas.

Chairperson Griffin called the Public Request section closed.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Recommend approval of minutes:

- May 26, 2009 Closed Session.
- May 27, 2009 Closed Session.
- May 28, 2009 Closed Session.
- May 29, 2009 Closed Session.
- June 1, 2009 Closed Session.
- June 3, 2009 Closed Session.
- June 4, 2009 Closed Session.
- June 5, 2009 Closed Session.
- June 9, 2009 Closed Session.
- June 9, 2009 Regular Board Meeting.
- June 23, 2009 Closed Session.
- June 23, 2009 Regular Board Meeting.
- June 24, 2009 Closed Session.
- June 25, 2009 Closed Session.
- June 30, 2009 Closed Session.
- July 1, 2009 Closed Session.
- July 7, 2009 Closed Session.
- July 14, 2009 Closed Session.

B. Real Estate items:

1. Recommend approval to exchange certain property owned by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (CMBOE) for certain property owned by Hingepoint, LLC.
 - *The property expected to be conveyed by CMBOE to Hingepoint, LLC is approximately .42 acres identified as Tax Parcel No. 161-043-01. The estimated value of the property which is to be conveyed to the Hingepoint, LLC is \$18,947.00 based upon the tax values of the properties.*
 - *The property expected to be conveyed by Hingepoint, LLC to CMBOE is approximately .80 acres identified as Tax Parcel No. 161-043-39. The estimated value of the property which is to be conveyed to CMBOE is \$55,757.00 based upon the tax values of the properties.*
 - *The value of the property being conveyed to CMBOE has a tax value of \$36,810.00*

more than the property being conveyed by CMBOE.

2. Recommend approval to exchange certain property owned by Charlotte- Mecklenburg Board of Education for certain property owned by Bobby L. and Mickie B. Mayhew (the “Mayhews).

- *The property expected to be conveyed by CMBOE to the Mayhews is as follows: an approximately .5129 acre portion of Tax Parcel No. 007-121-01.*
- *The property expected to be conveyed by the Mayhews to CMBOE is as follows: approximately .1215 acres of new permanent road right of way, .3708 acres of new sidewalk easement area, and .3755 acres temporary construction easement area, portions of Tax Parcel Nos. 007-121-08, 007-121-09, 007-121-10, 007-121-11, and 007-121-12. CMBOE intends to convey such property, or may cause the Mayhews to convey said property directly, to the North Carolina Department of Transportation or to the Town of Cornelius as may be required in connection with CMBOE’s Bailey Road high project. Additionally the Mayhews will convey an easement to Energy United along the frontage of said tax parcels.*
- *The values of the properties to be exchanged are estimated to be approximately equal, estimated to be \$10,258.00.*

3. Recommend approval for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education to lease Lakeview School property to LifeSpan, Inc.

- *LifeSpan develops and operates programs that provide education, employment, and enrichment to individuals with developmental disabilities.*
- *LifeSpan has leased the former Lakeview Elementary School property from Mecklenburg County, who leased it from CMBOE for \$1.00, for the past several years; that lease expires September 1, 2009.*
- *LifeSpan desires to continue leasing the property directly from CMBOE.*
- *CMBOE desires to lease the Lakeview Elementary School property to LifeSpan.*
- *Over the five-year term of the lease, LifeSpan will pay CMBOE \$81,000.00.*

- C. Recommend approval of appointment of administrative personnel:

Appointments:

- *Christopher Triolo named principal at Morehead Elementary School. Mr. Triolo previously served as Curriculum and Instruction, Secondary Science.*
- *Richard Parker named principal at East Mecklenburg High School. Mr. Parker previously served as assistant principal at East Mecklenburg High School.*

Transfers:

- *Katherine Rea named Executive Area Director of the North Learning Community. Ms. Rea previously served as principal at Mallard Creek High School.*
- *Dr. Anna Renfro named Executive Director of Curriculum Support. Dr. Renfro previously served as principal at James Martin Middle School.*
- *Mark Nixon named principal at new Mint Hill high school. Mr. Nixon previously served as principal at East Mecklenburg High School.*
- *Dr. Teresa Cockerham named principal at new Bailey high school. Dr. Cockerham previously served as principal at Providence High School.*
- *Tracey Harrill named principal at Providence High School. Ms. Harrill previously served as principal at Jay M. Robinson Middle School.*

- D. Recommend approval of licensed/non-licensed hires and promotions for June 2009.
- E. Recommend approval of the adoption of a resolution authorizing the Director of Storage and Distribution to dispose of property by way of online bid in auction format.

The online auction time span will encompass the August 17 through August 31, 2009 period. GovDeals, www.govdeals.com, an experienced and proven online government surplus sales service provider will facilitate the process.

- F. Supplementary funding/grant requests:

- 1. Recommend approval of supplementary grant request for Academic and Cultural Enrichment Center (ACE) 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

The ACE project will continue the current community learning center site programs at Ranson, Sedgfield, Spaugh, and Wilson middle schools. Funding requested from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in the amount of \$300,000.

- 2. Recommend approval of supplementary grant request for PE 5 Days.

The goal of the proposed project is to address the astounding rise in childhood obesity with an innovative approach to add more intense, structured physical activity during the school day. Funding requested from Aetna Foundation Regional Community Health Grants Program in the amount of \$49,604.

- 3. Recommend approval of supplementary grant request for Formative Assessment Pilot/Research Study.

The goal of the proposed pilot/research study is to redevelop the existing formative assessment program to become ongoing and adaptive in nature. Doing so will enable teachers to know where their students are on a continuum of learning based on state standards. Funded requested from Institute of Education Sciences/Development and Innovation Projects in the amount of \$1,438,016 over three years.

- G. Recommend approval of "Resolution Approving a Proposed Administrative Agreement and Lease Concerning the Refinancing Certain School Projects, Approving Certain Other Documents and Actions Related Thereto and Authorizing Other Official Action in Connection Herewith."

The Board of Education and the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners have previously approved funding for certain new school projects and expansion projects at existing schools through certificates of participation (COPS). Mecklenburg County is in the process of "refunding" (refinancing) all of the 2000, 2001 and 2004 COPS and all or a portion of the 2005 and 2007 COPS. The new issue is being called Limited Obligation Bonds, but essentially is a COPS issue by another name since the County needs to provide collateral just like the existing COPS. The plan is to sell these limited obligations bonds in August. The maximum size of the refunding issue is \$275,000,000 and the County needs to provide 50% collateral. The exact amount of the refunding (up to the \$275,000,000 maximum) will be determined by County staff in accordance with the Resolution approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 16, 2009 (copy attached). The purpose of the refunding is to reduce the amount of variable rate debt held by the County and replace it with fixed rate debt.

As required for this type of financing, Mecklenburg County must own the property used

as collateral for the money borrowed. School properties are then leased back to the Board of Education. The school properties proposed to be used for collateral are schools currently used as collateral for the existing COPS, Butler High School and the under construction new Mint Hill high school. CMBOE needs to approve the use of the school sites as collateral.

Mecklenburg County already owns the school sites that are currently used as collateral (and these sites are "leased-back" to CMBOE). Mecklenburg County also already owns the Mint Hill high school site (and leases it back to CMBOE) pursuant to that certain Site Ownership, Agency, and Master Lease Interlocal Agreement dated January 2, 2008. Depending on the final amount of the 2005 and 2007 COPS that are actually refunded, Butler High School may need to be conveyed to Mecklenburg County (and also leased back to CMBOE) as part of the proposed refunding all properties will be conveyed back to CMBOE after the financing has been paid. No more schools will be used as collateral than is necessary to meet the rating agency's requirement that collateral value be at least 50% of the debt amount (i.e., if the County refinances less than the \$275,000,000 maximum amount, one or more of the school sites contemplated to be used as collateral may not be needed).

Certain documents, including a Lease and an Administrative Agreement, must be approved by CMBOE and Mecklenburg County. The documents are in substantially the same form as were used for previous COPS transactions and are available for review and inspection in the legal department. The requested action item is approval of the resolution as presented.

Chairperson Griffin called for a motion to adopt the Consent agenda.

Ms. McGarry moved, seconded by Mr. White, that the Board adopt Consent Items A. through G., and the Board voted 8-0 in support of the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

III. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Recommend approval of Resolution certifying eligibility of Vance High School, new replacement school for McClintock Middle School, new elementary school on Stumptown Road, Ranson Middle School, new elementary school on NC Hwy 49, and new replacement school for Pineville Elementary School for proposed Qualified School Construction Bonds

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to present the recommendation. Dr. Gorman said we have received information regarding a type of bonds that are available for school construction called Qualified School Construction Bonds. Dr. Gorman called upon Guy Chamberlain to present the recommendation and answer questions. Dr. Gorman introduced Dena Diorio, Mecklenburg County Finance Director, from the County staff to answer questions. Mr. Chamberlain said this is an opportunity for CMS to get a low or interest free Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) issued through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Treasury Department has allocated for 2009 approximately \$26 million in these bonds and the 2010 allocations have not been determined but the amount of the total issuance of QSCB is the same in both 2009 and 2010. The applications for these allocations are due to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) no later than July 31st which is this coming Friday. The application must be accompanied by a Board

Resolution certifying that the construction projects are eligible for the QSCB. The schools that are eligible are new schools, renovations, and rehabilitation of existing buildings not including isolated athletic facilities. The proposed projects meet the requirements of the legislation. The County is in the process of issuing approximately \$100 million to finance those projects that are currently under construction including the new Mint Hill high school. By August, CMS will only have two construction projects ongoing, the two high schools, and they are estimated to be completed by April 2010. At that point, there will be no construction contracts ongoing. As a result of this current issuance, there is the likelihood that there may not be any other issuance this year. The instructions from the State indicate they want any bonds authorized in 2009 to be issued this calendar year; however, the Department of Public Instruction has the discretion to forward those allocations to the next calendar year. Mr. Chamberlain said he has discussed this with the DPI and they have indicated that because of the complexity and the magnitude of the CMS program they would be willing to consider that option. Mr. Chamberlain said at this point, it would be helpful to submit the application so that CMS does not lose the opportunity to have these bonds issued.

Qualified School Construction Bonds Resolution

Whereas, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education intends to construct an addition to Vance High School at 7600 IBM Drive in Charlotte, North Carolina; a new middle school to replace McClintock Middle School at 2101 Rama Road in Charlotte, North Carolina; a new elementary school located on Stumptown Road in Huntersville, North Carolina to relieve Torrence Creek Elementary School; an addition and renovation at Ranson Middle School at 5850 Statesville Road in Charlotte, North Carolina; a new elementary school located on NC Hwy 49 to relieve Winget Park Elementary School; and a new elementary school to replace Pineville Elementary School at 210 Lowery Street in Pineville, North Carolina; and

Whereas, these construction projects are eligible to be funded by Qualified School Construction Bonds authorized under the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009; and

Now, therefore, it is hereby **Resolved** that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education will commit its total allocation of Qualified School Construction Bond proceeds for the calendar year 2009 in the amount of \$25,962,000 toward the construction of the projects described above subject to the issuance of said Bonds by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners.

This is the 28th day of July 2009.

Chairperson Griffin called for a motion to adopt the Qualified School Construction Bonds Resolution.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mr. Merchant, that the Board approve a Resolution certifying eligibility of Vance High School, new replacement school for McClintock Middle School, new elementary school on Stumptown Road, Ranson Middle School, new elementary school on NC Hwy 49, and new replacement school for Pineville Elementary School for proposed Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB), and a discussion followed.

Mr. Gjertsen asked clarifying questions regarding the financing mechanism. Mr. Chamberlain explained that this is an option for the County to issue debt and it is not in addition to the 2007

Bonds that have already been authorized. It will serve to provide bonds that are interest free and that will save a substantial amount of money for the taxpayers of Mecklenburg County.

The Board voted 8-0 in support of the motion. Mr. Gauvreau was absent.

V. REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on Budget Amendments for June 2009

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman said Report Items A. and B. are the monthly reports and are as presented.

B. Report on Capital Project Ordinances for June 2009

Presented with Report Item A.

B. Report on Assessment Results: End-of-Grade Preliminary Results 2008-2009 School Year

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report on Assessment Results for End-of-Grade Preliminary Results for the 2008-2009 school year. Dr. Gorman said he and Dr. Chris Cobitz, Director of Data Assessment, with the Accountability Department would be making the presentation.

Dr. Gorman reviewed the 2008-2009 End-of-Grade Preliminary Results.

Strategic Plan 2010 Goal #1: High Academic Achievement. Staff backed into the objective by taking the Adequate Yearly Progress goal that was in place at the time and the number needed to reach 100% proficiency by 2014.

Goal # 1 Objective:

- Ninety-five percent of students will achieve at or above standard on reading End-of-Grade (EOG) tests in grades three through eight.
- Eighty-eight percent of students will achieve at or above standard on mathematics End-of-Grade (EOG) tests in grades three through eight.
- North Carolina End-of-Grade Assessments:
 - Administered at the end of grades 3rd through 8th.
 - 2nd year for Reading Edition.
 - 4th year for Math Edition.
 - 2nd year for Science.
 - Tests have gone through changes over the years and as a result it is difficult to provide a year-to-year comparison.
- Reading and Math End-of-Grade:
 - Administered in grades 3rd through 8th.
 - Over 56,000 CMS students tested.
 - Three test sessions: Two in Math and one in Reading.
- Science End-of-Grade:
 - Grades 5th and 8th.
- Four Levels of Achievement:
 - Level III- grade level/at standard.
 - Level IV – above grade level/above standard.

- 2008-2009 End-of-Grade Results:
 - End-of-Grades:
 - Up in each grade without retests.
 - Retests increased the percent proficient or the pass rates.
 - The State now counts retest in the percent proficient (in the past they did not). Staff has taken the position that for this year retests will not be counted in reviewing past year comparisons. Retests will be counted in looking forward. Including retests in the past year comparisons will produce false growth numbers as this is not an apples to apples comparison. After this year, the retest numbers will be used going forward.
 - Achievement Gap:
 - Narrowed in Math.
 - Widened in Reading.
 - Retests cause an appearance of narrowing in Reading.
 - Widened in Science.
- 2008-2009 Math Results: Math Proficiency (percentage of scores at Levels III and IV).

	2006	2007	2008	2009 w/o retests	2009 with retests	3-Year Variance
Grade 3	70	70	70	73	80	+ 3
Grade 4	67	69	71	74	80	+ 7
Grade 5	67	69	72	74	81	+ 7
Grade 6	62	62	65	68	76	+ 6
Grade 7	58	60	64	68	75	+10
Grade 8	62	63	65	72	79	+10
Composite	64	66	68	72	79	+ 8

3-year variance based upon proficiency 2006 and 2009 without retests.

- 2008-2009 Math Proficiency trends within subgroups (with and without retests).

	Econ. Disadv.	Not Econ. Disadv.	African- American	Hispanic	Asian	White
Grades 3 rd – 8 th						
Composite without retests	59	82	57	66	85	91
Composite with retests	68	87	67	75	89	94

- Math Achievement Gap Trends. Gap has been narrowed over a series of years and over one year.
- Schools meeting the *Strategic Plan 2010* EOG Math Goal of 88% (36 schools).
- 2008-2009 Reading Results (only 2nd year of the test): Percentage of scores at Levels III and IV.

	2008	2009 w/o retests	2009 with retests	1-Year Variance
Grade 3	56	58	66	+ 2
Grade 4	60	62	70	+ 2

Grade 5	57	60	69	+ 3
Grade 6	58	62	70	+ 4
Grade 7	49	54	63	+ 5
Grade 8	51	57	66	+ 6
Composite	55	59	67	+ 4

1-year variance based upon proficiency 2008 and 2009 without retests.

- Reading Proficiency trends without and with retests.

Reading Proficiency Grades 3 rd – 8 th	Econ. Disadv.	Not Econ. Disadv.	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	White
Composite without retests	41	72	43	45	69	83
Composite with retests	51	80	54	55	75	89

- All students made more than one year's growth in one year's time.
 - Schools meeting the *Strategic Plan 2010* End-of-Grade Reading Goal of 95%: Elizabeth Lane Elementary, Hawk Ridge Elementary, and Providence Spring Elementary schools.
- 2008-2009 Science Results: Percentage of scores at Levels III and IV.

Science Proficiency	2008	2009 w/o retests	2009 with retests	1-Year Variance
Grade 5	40	50	60	+ 10
Grade 8	47	55	64	+ 8
Composite	43	52	62	+ 9

- 2008-2009 Science Proficiency without and with retests.

Science Proficiency Grades 5 th & 8 th	Econ. Disadv.	Not Econ. Disadv.	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	White
Composite without retests	37	67	34	41	67	80
Composite with retests	44	76	45	52	76	87

- All students grew an average of one year's growth in one year's time.
- Overall the gap in Science grew.

Dr. Gorman reviewed the 2008-2009 End-of-Course (EOC) Preliminary Results.

Strategic Plan 2010 Goal 1: High Academic Achievement.

Goal 1 Objective: Eighty percent of students will achieve at or above standard on the EOC Composite tests.

- North Carolina End-of-Course Assessments: (*) Part of the high school exit standards, failure of these subjects will prohibit the student from graduating: Algebra I*, Algebra II, Biology*, Chemistry, Civics and Economics*, English I*, Geometry, Physics, Physical Science, and U. S. History.
- What is new this year?
 - Five End-of-Course tests are no longer counted in growth: Algebra 2, Chemistry, Geometry, Physical Science, and Physics.
- 2008-2009 End-of-course Results:

Subject	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2 or 3 Year Variance
Algebra I*	71.3	70.9	76.7	+ 5.4
Algebra II		67.2	75.1	+ 7.9
Biology*		71.9	78.4	+ 6.5
Chemistry		63.9	74.9	+11.0
Civics and Economics*		70.8	77.2	+ 6.4
English I*	71.3	74.1	76.4	+ 5.1
Geometry		65.4	72.9	+ 7.5
Physical Science		53.0	60.9	+ 7.9
Physics		76.7	87.3	+10.6
U. S. History*	70.9	74.3	78.7	+ 7.8
Composite	66.9	68.8	75.8	+8.9

- Students have grown in all tests in all areas.
- End-of-course data does not include retests. Next year, EOCs will include retests.
- Graduation subjects (*) indicated improvement in all areas.
- 2008-2009 End-of-Course Proficiency trends within subgroups:

2008-2009 EOC Proficiency Subject	Econ. Disadv.	Not Econ. Disadv.	African-American	Hispanic	Asian	White
Algebra I*	70.5	86.8	69.0	76.9	89.9	92.8
Algebra II	65.9	78.9	63.3	66.9	85.4	85.7
Biology*	67.2	84.8	67.3	70.6	89.9	92.4
Chemistry	63.3	78.6	62.6	72.7	87.0	82.0
Civics and Economics*	63.8	84.4	66.4	67.9	85.0	91.8
English I*	63.7	85.4	66.4	66.9	85.9	92.0
Geometry	65.0	76.7	60.0	70.7	87.8	85.3
Physical Science	55.3	65.6	54.3	54.9	90.0	79.3
Physics	68.1	90.5	65.3	84.1	68.7	95.0
U. S. History*	65.4	84.9	67.4	72.4	86.8	91.2
Composite	65.0	82.4	65.0	69.5	86.7	89.4

- Highest scoring subgroup is White students.
- Lowest scoring subgroup is economically disadvantaged students and African-American students.
- Gap closed in Algebra I, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, English I, and Geometry.
- There was some closing of the gap in each EOC test but more work needs to be

achieved with Physics, Physical Science, Civics, and U. S. History.

- High Schools meeting *Strategic Plan 2010* EOC Composite Goal of 80%: Ardrey Kell High, Butler High, Cato Campus Middle College, Garinger International Studies High, Garinger New Technology High, Mallard Creek High, Myers Park High, and Providence High.
- North Carolina Writing Assessment:
 - Only administered at 10th grade.
 - Used in high school as the AYP test for reading.
 - Students respond to a prompt.
 - The writing scale range: 4-20.
 - Student who score 12 or better are considered to be proficient.
 - Used as the 10th grade Reading test for AYP.
- Achievement Levels:
 - Level III – grade level (scores of 12-16).
 - Level IV – above grade level (scores of 17-20).
- 2008-2009 Writing results for 10th grade:
 - Down by two percentage points from last year.
 - CMS rate is higher than the State rate.
 - The State rate decreased one percentage point from last year.
 - Over the past five years have seen growth but this year results were slightly down.

Grade	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
10 th	50	62	64	77	75

- 10th Grade Writing Gap Trends: The Gap between African-American and White students remained level and decreased slightly between Economically Disadvantaged and Not Economically Disadvantaged students.
- 2008-2009 Writing Results – Schools meeting *Strategic Plan 2010* Writing Goal: Olympic International Studies, Olympic Math and Engineering, North Mecklenburg High, Harding University High, South Mecklenburg High, Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology, Myers Park High, Northwest School of the Arts, Butler High, Ardrey Kell High, Providence High, and Performance Learning Center.
- 2007-2008 Strategic Staffing Schools Results: Briarwood Elementary, Bruns Avenue Elementary, Devonshire Elementary, Ranson Middle, Reid Park Elementary, Sterling Elementary, and Westerly Hills Elementary schools.
 - On average substantial closing of the achievement gap in all areas.
- 2008-2009 Strategic Staffing Schools Results: Albemarle Road Middle, Allenbrook Elementary, Ashley Park Elementary, Bishop Spough Middle, Druid Hills Elementary, Paw Creek Elementary, and Thomasboro Elementary schools.
 - Positive growth in all areas.
- 2008-2009 Achievement Zone Results: Billingsville Elementary, Shamrock Gardens Elementary, Bishop Spough Middle, Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle, Sedgefield Middle, and Wilson Middle schools.
 - Growth in all schools except for a slight decline in one area each for Shamrock Gardens Elementary, Bishop Spough Middle, and Wilson Middle schools.

- 2008-2009 End-of-Course Composite Comparison – Achievement Zone Results:

School	EOC COMPOSITE				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	Variance
Garinger High	46.3	50.5	42.7	53.5	+ 7.2
West Charlotte High	39.9	45	58.7	68.8	+28.9
West Mecklenburg High	48	52.3	57.7	73.3	+25.3
E. E. Waddell High	49.7	48.3	55.8	59.2	+ 9.5
Midwood			17.8	25	+ 7.2

➤ Growth in all areas with dramatic growth in West Charlotte and West Mecklenburg.

- 2008-2009 End-of-Course Composite Comparison Results Focus Schools (* High School Challenge Schools):

School	EOC COMPOSITE				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	Variance
Garinger High*	46.3	50.5	42.7	53.5	+ 7.2
West Charlotte High*	39.9	45	58.7	68.8	+28.9
West Mecklenburg High*	48	52.3	57.7	73.3	+25.3
E. E. Waddell High*	49.7	48.3	55.8	59.2	+ 9.5
East Mecklenburg High	63.7	66.4	69.5	74.8	+11.1
Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology	50.7	56.3	56.5	75.2	+24.5
Harding University High	53.9	61.3	66.1	65.7	+11.8
Vance High	60.8	61.5	56.4	66.5	+ 5.7
Independence High	63.4	70.6	74.4	77.4	+14.0

➤ Growth in all areas but more work needs to be achieved.

Dr. Gorman said the Board directed staff to focus more towards a growth model and he called upon Dr. Chris Cobitz to review the growth data. Dr. Cobitz provided an overview of the growth data.

- Goal/Objective Year-to-Year Comparison of Growth:

Goal/ Objective	Description	2006-2007 Level	2007-2008 Level	2008-2009 Level
1/1	ABCs Average Growth Total (all tests)	81.24	80.96	82.5
1/2	ABCs Reading Growth Average	79.72	80.44	80.8
1/3	ABCs Math Growth Average	81.62	82.88	83.9
1/6A	ABCs EOC Growth Average	82.48	79.54	82.8
1/6B	ABCs English I Growth Average	82.9	81.72	83
1/6C	ABCs Algebra I Growth Average	80.12	79.74	84.2
1/7A1	Growth for African-American students (closing of gap)	79.6	79.76	81.5
1/7A2	Growth for Hispanic students (closing of gap)	81.34	81.22	82.7

1/7B	Growth for economically disadvantaged students (closing of gap)	79.82	80.16	81.7
1/8	Cohort Graduation Rate (state and federal measure)	*73.8	66.6	66.1

- A score of 80 equates to on average students in CMS were achieving a year's growth in a year's time.
- In 2008-2009 on average across all tests students exceeded a year's growth in a year's time.
- In order to close the achievement gaps, CMS must close the growth for African-American, Hispanic, and Economically Disadvantaged students at a faster rate than we are growing the other students on average.
- The Cohort Graduation rate is slightly down from last year and CMS is continuing to improve the process for tracking students to ensure accurately accounting for all students. (* The Graduation Rate for 2006-2007 was highly inflated due to record keeping issues.)
- Progress was made in 22 of 23 areas.

Dr. Gorman provided an overview of the Adequate Yearly Progress results. He noted that federal legislation includes that every student must be proficient by 2014.

- 2008-2009 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Preliminary Target Goals to reach 100% by 2014:

	2007	2008 through 2010	2011	2014
Grades 3 rd – 8 th Reading	76.7%	43.2%	71.6%	100%
Grades 3 rd – 8 th Math	65.8%	77.2%	88.6%	100%
Grade 10 th Reading	34.4%	38.5%	69.3%	100%
Grade 10 th Math	70.8%	68.4%	84.2%	100%

- 2006-2007 AYP: 61 out of 151 schools - 40.4%.
- 2007-2008 AYP: 31 out of 158 schools - 19.6%.
- 2008-2009 AYP: 111 out of 163 schools – 68.1%.
- 2008-2009 Estimated AYP without retests: 59 out of 163 – 36.2%. The use of retests in calculating AYP for the 2008-2009 school year caused many schools to meet the safe harbor provision of the law. Staff believes it is more appropriate to compare without retests.
- Title I School Improvement:
 - Schools that made AYP (112 schools made AYP).
 - Schools existing Improvement: Shamrock Gardens Elementary.
 - Schools taking a step toward exiting School Improvement (17 schools).
 - Schools entering the first year of School Improvement: First Ward and Pinewood Elementary.
 - Total number of schools in School Improvement (28 schools).
- 2008-2009 Career and Technical Education (CTE): VoCATS Preliminary Results:
 - Goal: Eight percent of students will achieve at or above standard on the EOC

composite tests.

- Apply same standard to CTE tests.
- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Goal for CMS in 2008-2009: 65.4%.
- Over 36,000 CTE high school students were assessed.
- Part of the Carl Perkins IV Act (2006) – helps to align Vocational courses with other federal programs.
- 87 CTE Courses:
 - 67 DPI tested courses.
 - 20 CMS tests courses (not included in these results).
 - 79.9% of students proficient:
 - 27 high schools met or exceeded the DPI 2008-2009 goal for the school.
 - Preliminary results (includes only test takers).
 - DPI final results may be different.
- CMS Trend – percent proficient (some tests were not given in each year):
 - 2005-2006 – 55.7%.
 - 2006-2007 – 62.3%.
 - 2007-2008 – 70.6%.
 - 2008-2009 – 79.9%.
- CMS results versus expectations.
- VoCATS Composite Comparison – Focus High Schools.

School	Composite		Variance
	2008	2009	
Garinger High*	54.1%	74.06%	+19.6%
West Charlotte High*	47.3 %	68.8%	+21.5%
West Mecklenburg High*	41.0%	69.44%	+28.44%
E. E. Waddell High*	40.4%	53.25%	+12.85%
East Mecklenburg High	71.0%	78.36%	+ 7.36%
Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology	61.4%	76.64%	+15.24%
Harding University High	56.7%	63.85%	+ 7.15%
Vance High	69.4%	76.67%	+ 7.27%
Independence High	58.2%	68.28%	+10.08%

- Over a one year period of time dramatic growth was achieved.

Dr. Gorman said this is an annual report at the July Board meeting. The state will release the ABC assessment results the first week of August. Dr. Gorman said CMS has a myriad of different methods to measure data. Dr. Gorman commended the Board, from an accountability standpoint, for directing staff to focus on growth as an important measurement. Growth is an indicator that provides an apples-to-apples comparisons over multiple years and for every student. Next year's data will provide more and better data broken down by growth.

Board members were invited to make comments and ask questions. Dr. Gorman introduced Ann Clark, Chief Academic Officer, and Charity Bell, Executive Director of the West Learning Community and former principal at West Mecklenburg High School, to answer questions.

- Mr. Merchant asked how much time is there between the test and the retest and is the retest the same test? Dr. Cobitz said approximately four days and he explained the remediation process, state testing requirements, and margin of error. Dr. Cobitz said the test was the same test as last year and the retest is a different form of the test that covers the same material. Mr. Merchant expressed concern that the State's safe harbor provision makes some schools look better than their actual numbers. He commended CMS for focusing on student improvement. He said the real number should be the retest number because that is allowing someone a second chance and it is a better measure of showing students' level of understanding. Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding the cohort graduate rate. Dr. Cobitz said the federal guideline for cohort graduation rate is those students who started in 9th grade for the first time in a given year and the percentage of those students who have not transferred elsewhere plus those who transferred in who were on track with rest of the students who started 9th grade in that given year who do actually graduate within that four year period of time. Mr. Merchant does not believe that the federal guideline that every student will be proficient by 2014 is realistic. Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding schools with students who were not performing well on EOC tests but were performing well on VoCATS tests. Charity Bell discussed the strategies she used at West Mecklenburg to recruit highly qualified teachers and to improve student achievement. West Mecklenburg experienced issues with retention of students and staff looked at each individual student and what they needed.
- Ms. McGarry asked clarifying questions regarding who is tested and retested. Dr. Cobitz said all students who are in a course past the 10th day of school are to remain in the course and test unless they qualify for a medical emergency. Students who are out the day of the test have a ten day window to make up the test. Ms. McGarry discussed concerns regarding retest and believes students taking a refresher course would be a better idea to ensure students absorb the knowledge versus testing to the test. Dr. Gorman said CMS must meet the state retest timeline which is within a ten-day window. A student not passing the test or retest for one of the big five subjects (those required for graduation) could prevent that student from gradating. Ms. McGarry expressed concern regarding the writing results because communication, both written and oral, will be one of the most important pieces of getting and keeping a job. She encouraged staff to focus on improving that area. Ms. McGarry said she would like receive writing samples from the students. Dr. Gorman said CMS does not have those writing assessments and they are not available. Ms. Clark said the State is currently reviewing the writing standards K-12 and she anticipates the State Board will take action and this may be the last year of the 10th Grade Writing test. There have already been changes at the elementary and middle school level. The Graduation Project which is the culminating writing piece had some major changes this spring and the State has been in the process of gathering feedback from school districts for next steps in the Graduation Project which will also be a part of the overall standard revision. Ms. McGarry said she is happy about the improvements in Math but she is deeply concerned about the Reading results especially since the Board has set budget priorities to eliminate media specialist and the use of libraries. Ms. McGarry said reading should be a focus area and she encouraged staff to take steps to offset the reductions in media specialists and the lack of emphasis on libraries. Dr. Gorman discussed the importance of ensuring that students can read by the end of 3rd grade and there is a focus on the 3rd grade Intensive Reading Program. Ms. Clark said there are major accomplishments in the media services area and she commended staff for not allowing programming to be compromised, for working more

closely with classroom teachers at the elementary level, and for preparing the media centers as a resource for the secondary level.

- Ms. Mitchell-Walker thanked staff for the report. She congratulated the schools, staff, and students who have taken steps toward excellent School Improvement and who performed well. She expressed concern that only one school in District 2 was at 88%. Ms. Mitchell-Walker is pleased that the gap is improving and she would like every effort to be put forth in closing the achievement gap among the subgroups and she asked to be informed when such measures are put in place.
- Mr. Tate thanked staff for the report. He commended the staff and students at Shamrock Gardens for their efforts to exit School Improvement. Mr. Tate expressed concern that the majority of the schools that are meeting the *Strategic Plan 2010* Goals are located in three districts and not in the other three districts. He encouraged staff to do even more to ensure that all the schools are going to be included on the School Improvement list. Mr. Tate expressed concern that there is not one school on the list that is located in District 4 but we should celebrate because we are moving towards growth. Mr. Tate asked clarifying questions regarding the trends for one year's growth in one year's time and how to get a true picture of where we actually are as a district. Mr. Tate expressed concern that there are many schools growing but they are still way below the target average. Dr. Gorman said all students did not make growth but on average all students made growth. CMS experiences an unequal distribution of proficiency being at a standard that we have set. This is most likely not in District 2, 3, and 4 and in many cases it mirrors the location of Focus Schools. There is not a non-magnet, non-Focus school located in District 4. There are poverty challenges but that is not an excuse. Dr. Gorman said staff will attempt to provide better and more data for next year as well as growth data broken down in a variety of ways by school. Dr. Gorman said this is good progress and growth but until we make that progress and close that gap for all students we must be cautious. Mr. Tate hopes the new programs and summer programs will continue to contribute to improvements in growth and proficiency.
- Mr. Ross expressed concern regarding the labels for subgroups. Dr. Gorman said the categories are outlined in the *No Child Left Behind* legislation and it has the potential of having forty-one subgroups. Mr. Ross expressed concern regarding the potential of inconsistency by including so many variables and what we are doing or what we may not be doing. He is particularly concerned about who falls in the economic disadvantaged and non-economic categories. Mr. Ross believes it would be better to only recognize two groups of students in the school system: those who are doing okay and those who are not doing okay. Staff should lift those doing okay up and help those who are not doing okay to do better. He expressed concern that federal guidelines forces school systems to label students in a manner that does not have much meaning.
- Mr. White said he is not fond of *No Child Left Behind* legislation. Years ago, there were schools that bragged about how great they were because they took the total average of all students. The schools were not educating the same students that we are not educating today but those statistics were hidden behind the statistics of other students. The good thing about *No Child Left Behind* when it is broken down in those categories is the results of those students cannot be ignored. We are obligated to furnish an education to each and every one of those groups. Mr. White said he and the state are pushing for changes through the reauthorization to *No Child Left Behind*. He is not sure he would support the elimination of the various subgroups because we need to have a measurement to ensure we are meeting the needs of those students in those subgroups.

- Mr. Merchant said this has been a good discussion. He said another way to view those numbers is that we are not offering education to a certain group and there is a certain group that is not acting on the education that we are offering. He expressed concern that some people would view this as the school system is falling but in reality the whole culture is failing and those students who are not doing what they are supposed to be doing are failing. He believes more can be accomplished by everyone focusing on what is working, what can be built upon, and what is not working and why not.
- Chairperson Griffin said we do have gaps and we have more work to do but CMS has done a lot of great work and made great accomplishments in some of the targeted areas such as the Achievement Zone and Focus Schools. The results show that what we do as a school system does matter and the initiatives implemented to change what is not working is effective. This is affirming many of the initiatives implemented by Dr. Gorman and carried out by staff are working.

Dr. Gorman said we have a great group of teachers and principals and he commended them for their professionalism. He said we are facing tough budget challenges for next year and staff is committed to working harder to keep up.

C. Management Oversight Report on Alternative Education

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the report. Dr. Gorman called upon Dr. Ralph Taylor, Executive Director of Alternative Education and Safe Schools Department, and Valoria Burch, principal of Turning Point Academy, to present the Management Oversight Report on Alternative Education.

Dr. Taylor and Ms. Burch provided a joint presentation. Dr. Taylor provided an overview of the Alternative Education Program and Ms. Burch provided information regarding Turning Point Academy.

- History:
 - CMS created discipline alternative learning programs during the early 1970s to educate students who have been removed from traditional school settings due to violations of the *Code of Student Conduct*.
 - There were six alternative-learning program sites for middle and high school students.
 - In 2001-2002, the School Board voted to merge the six programs, creating Derita Alternative School.
 - Derita Alternative School was restructured and renamed Turning Point Academy in 2008-2009
 - Students are assigned to Turning Point Academy if they have Level IV or Level V violations of the *Student Code of Conduct* and are assigned to the schools for 180 days.
 - Turning Point aims to meet the educational needs of at-risk students through therapeutic intervention services, behavior and academic intervention, and prevention opportunities.
 - Turning Point's mission is to redirect student behavior through programs that focus on academic achievement, self-esteem, responsibility, leadership and community service.
 - Turning Point students must meet goals in certain areas before returning to their

home schools that include behavior, attendance, academics, and attitude.

- Alternative Education programs must follow federal, state, and CMS Board of Education guidelines. They are focused on ensuring students receive due process rights which involve adhering to their disabilities and exposure to a general curriculum.
- Budget: The budget is comprised of federal, state, and local funding. The majority of the \$587,680 funding is applied to programs. The department includes approximately 88 positions.
- Challenges of the Alternative Education Program:
 - Alternative Education and Safe Schools:
 - Reduction in staff.
 - Insufficient programs to address substance abuse issues and criminal/at-risk behaviors.
 - Turning Point Challenges:
 - Students enroll each week and that makes it difficult for teachers to follow the pacing guides.
 - Large number of Exceptional Children students.
 - No baseline data from year to year.
 - Poor student attendance.
- Student Goals: Improving academic achievement, modifying behavior, and returning to home school.
- Alternative Education Initiatives:
 - Right Choices: a six-week program that provides constructive intervention and early support for mostly middle and high school students who violate the *Code of Student Conduct*.
 - Long-Term Alternative to Suspension: a thirty-day program that provides a structured environment with an emphasis on academic achievement and behavior management.
 - Jail North: a partnership with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department designed for 16 and 17 year old male students who are found guilty of breaking the law.
 - Jail Central: a joint effort with the Sheriff's Department designed for youthful offenders (male and female) between the 16 and 17 who have been adjudicated by the county court system for violating the law.
 - McLeod Program: a comprehensive educational intervention for students in grade 6th through 12th with drug additions. Students receive substance abuse treatment and academic lessons.
 - Short-Term Alternative to Suspension: a program that provides a safe, structured environment for students suspended for one to ten days.
 - Probationary Program: supports students who violate the *Code of Student Conduct* and have been assigned probation.
 - Criminal Watch Program: a partnership with law enforcement and court services. CMS is notified when students age 16 or older are arrested for a felony.
- Turning Point Initiatives: Initiatives are centered around therapeutic interventions, academic and behavior interventions, and prevention programs and include the following:
 - Comprehensive Counseling Program.
 - No Easy Walk Gang Prevention/Leadership Program.
 - Service Learning Program.
 - Future Seekers Program: Students are given the opportunity to visit businesses, local educational facilities, and organizations to consider options for their future.
 - Leap Program (for overage 8th Graders).

- Character Counts ISS (Improving Student Stability in the classroom) Program.
 - Parent Volunteering/Participation Program.
 - Burch Buck Incentive Program.
 - Mentoring Program.
- Results:

Program	Number of Students Enrolled	Number of Students Successfully Completed
Right Choices	380	325
30-Day Alternative to Suspension	430	398
Jail North	260	N/A
Jail Central Program launched in Spring 2009	39	N/A
Gatling Detention Center Closed Spring 2009	51	N/A
McLeod	68	67
One to Ten Day Alternative to Suspension	2,717	2,680

- Turning Point Academy Results/Progress:
 - Increased school-performance composite score from 16.6 to 23.6.
 - Increased number of community partnerships from 4 to 28.
 - Increased number of parent-involvement opportunities from 4 to 17.
 - Implemented opportunities for character-building (motivational speakers, mentors, service learning, field trips, incentives, leadership/social-skills building).
 - Decreased number of student suspensions from 1,284 to 836 (35% reduction).
 - 58 students out of 252 who enrolled successfully completed the program.
- Alternative Education Nest Steps:
 - Design and implement a new alternative learning program for designated students removed from a regular-school program due to felony or violent misdemeanor charges and/or convictions.
 - Assess each alternative learning program and implement changes as needed.
 - Provide on going in-service for staff in alternative learning programs in the areas of classroom management, teaching strategies, conflict resolution, and de-escalation techniques.

Ms. Burch thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the information and she invited the Board to visit Turing Point and the Alternative Centers. Ms. Burch shared insightful comments from a student who attended Turning Point. She was enlightened to change her attitude, encouraged to achieve success, and she was thankful that she got a second chance.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Mr. Merchant thanked staff for the report and their work in this area. Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding Turning Point that regarded are initiatives mandatory or offered, parent participation, were all the 252 students eligible to complete the program successfully, and the number of students taking advantage of the program. Ms. Burch said

the initiatives are offered and they all are made available to the students. As students progress in the program staff will approach them to see if they would be interested in those initiatives. The Parent Volunteer Program is voluntary but staff encourages the parents to participate at the school in some way. Parent Volunteer hours for this past school year totaled 575 hours outside of the normal mandatory meetings. Students are assigned to the program for 180 days and they are eligible to transition upon the completion of those days but if they have not met the goals of the program they may not transition or return to the home school. Completing the goals is a key piece because we believe completing those goals will ensure they are ready to return to the home school environment. Mr. Merchant said he likes this model because there is a conservative effort to turn these students around. He said he has not heard anything from the neighborhood and that is a credit to Ms. Burch and Dr. Taylor. Ms. Burch said she held a meeting to share the vision of the school and invited everyone in the community to attend the meeting. She also attends their community meetings to keep them abreast of the activities of the school and she shares information on the Community Newsletter which is online. Mr. Merchant asked staff if the Alternative Department needed anything from the Board? Ms. Burch said there are always challenges in Alternative Education and resources are on top of the list. She thanked the Board, the district, and Scott Muri, Area Superintendent for the Northeast Learning Community for their support in helping to meet the needs of the school. Having the right staff in place is key but with the budget complications some positions had to be cut. She would like the Board members to visit Turning Point Academy to participate in their events and witness their successes. Last year, they held a Community Fall Festival and this year they are conducting Curriculum Night and Family Math Night.

- Mr. White thanked staff for their hard work. He said it is important to him to know that we have walked the extra mile to demonstrate that we have tried to provide the setting in which those students can get a second change. The letter read by Ms. Burch makes it all worthwhile.
- Mr. Ross expressed concern that in the phonebook the school is still listed as Derita Alternative School. Ms. Burch said they are working to get that changed.
- Ms. McGarry said the report was informative of where we are and where we are going. Ms. McGarry asked what steps have been taken to ensure consistency in student suspensions among the different Learning Communities? Dr. Taylor said he meets with staff every Thursday to review consistency regarding student exclusions based upon such factors as infraction, frequency, and duration. The mitigating factors may influence the process of placing students but it is fairly consistent. Ms. McGarry asked how many Truancy Centers are in CMS? Dr. Taylor said this is a combination of Truancy Centers and Suspension Centers because students are not turned away if they come to the wrong place and there are a total of seven centers. Ms. McGarry said she participated in the Right Choices Program and she was very impressed with that program but she was distressed that it is no longer offered in the summer. Dr. Taylor said that is a result of budget cuts. Ms. McGarry asked clarifying questions regarding the Marie G. Davis site that includes twenty mobile units. Dr. Taylor responded noting that his office and staff will be moving to that location, he discussed the implementation of the five tier discipline system in which more options are offered, increasing the size of the Banks Street facility, and given students more options for student because there are students who do not want to return to their home school. Ms. McGarry asked is it correct that we have 175 felons in CMS? Dr. Taylor said this would be better phrased that there are 175 students who have been charged with a felony but that

does not mean they have been convicted because they have not been through the due process system. There are some misdemeanors that are more egregious than felonies. Ms. McGarry asked are the mobiles at Marie G. Davis going to be used to house students who have been charged or convicted of a felony which is a part of the next steps? Dr. Taylor said that is a possibility because Alternative Education has always served those students. Ms. McGarry discussed her concerns regarding felons in the schools and discussed the importance of communicating/educating gang prevention to teachers, staff, and the community. Dr. Taylor said Gang of One and other organizations periodically visit learning communities to provide seminars and reports on gang activity. School Law Enforcement is also involved in providing information to the schools. Ms. McGarry would like an update on gang activity and she believes an important part of this is parent education. This is vitally important at this time because we are reducing the security at our schools. Bud Cesena, Director of School Law Enforcement, provided an update on the collaboration of CMS and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Gangs Unit in which all security associates will be receiving Gang Training in order for them to be better adapt in gang awareness. The Law Enforcement Department is working in collaboration with Huntersville, Davidson, and Cornelius and the other departments interested in having CMS Campus Security Associates involved. The Department is also working closely with Dr. Taylor to ensure we are getting the message out, increasing gang level awareness, and working with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police to get gang recruiting stopped because that is a violation of the new law.

- Ms. Mitchell-Walker commended Ms. Burch and Scott Muir, Area Superintendent for the Northeast Learning Community, for changing the image of Turning Point Academy. She visited the school and was most impressed noting that the transition process for students was orderly. She encouraged the Board members to also visit the new school.
- Chairperson Griffin expressed concern that CMS has the lack of ability to offer all the same classes at the alternative school setting that are offered in the regular program. She hopes virtual learning may be a method to offer those students the needed courses. Ms. Burch said we are limited in staff and we offer that as an option to expand the course work for our students. There has been a small group of students who have attempted to take some virtual learning classes and there was one student this summer who took two virtual learning courses. Chairperson Griffin encouraged that CMS continue to make progress in this area because it is tough to assign a student to that setting and not be able to offer them the courses that they need. Chairperson Griffin asked if there was an after school program for students who are older and endanger of not being able to graduate? Ms. Burch said there is a Night Program that is basically for credit recovery and students across the district can attend to receive additional credits towards graduation.

E. Report/Update on New Mint Hill High School Boundary

Chairperson Griffin called upon Dr. Gorman to introduce the Report on the new Mint Hill High School Boundary. Dr. Gorman said staff is continuing to develop options, meet with individuals, and discuss boundaries. He thanked the Board for their time in meeting with staff and the community in discussing boundary options. Dr. Gorman called upon Scott McCully, Executive Director of Student Placement Services, to share some additional information. Mr. McCully thanked the Board, citizens, and the mayors for their hard work in discussing boundary options. Mr. McCully said after many discussions staff has developed three new

staff options for the Board and the community's consideration. Mr. McCully said in developing school boundaries, staff typically uses the elementary schools zones as the basic building blocks for constructing the middle school and high school boundaries and he will use the elementary feeders in describing the proposed boundary maps. The options also impact Butler High, East Mecklenburg High, and Independence High schools. Mr. McCully provided a brief history of the process.

- History:
 - Process began spring 2009 when planning staff developed discussion boundary options.
 - Mid-March posted boundary discussion options on CMS Website for community review.
 - Mid-March held community meetings.
 - May 12th Regular Board meeting: Staff presented recommendation to the Board.
 - June 9th Regular Board meeting: The Board voted on some other boundaries with the option to explore further the boundaries for the new Mint Hill high school.
 - August 11th Regular Board meeting: The Board is scheduled to vote on this item.

Mr. McCully provided an overview of the three proposed options for the new Mint Hill high school.

1. Green Zone (new Mint Hill high school) is comprised of J. W. Grier, Reedy Creek, J. H. Gunn split and Clear Creek split. This is basically Community Option 1 which is currently on the CMS website. Projected enrollment: 1,800, Facility Utilization: 113%, and Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 50%.
 - Butler High School: Crown Point and Piney Grove will be removed from East Mecklenburg High School and assigned to Butler High School. Utilization: 113%, Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 32%.
 - East Mecklenburg High School: This does include the IB Program and the students in that program. Utilization: 114%, Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 49%.
 - Independence High School: Independence will take in Bain Elementary, Lebanon Road Elementary, Albemarle Road Elementary, and a part of Clear Creek Elementary. Utilization: 120%, Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 46%.
2. Blue Zone (new Mint Hill high school) is comprised of J. W. Grier, Reedy Creek, J. H. Gunn split, and Clear Creek split (East of Blair Road). Projected enrollment: 1,668, Facility Utilization: 104%, and Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 52%.
 - Butler High School: Utilization: 113%, Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 32%.
 - East Mecklenburg High School: Utilization: 114%, Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 49%.
 - Independence High School: A portion of Clear Creek is moved to Independence High School. Utilization: 129%, Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 44%.
3. Coral Zone (new Mint Hill high school) is comprised of J. W. Grier, Reedy Creek, J. H. Gunn split, and Clear Creek split (East of Blair Road). Greenway Park Elementary (including the Sardis Forest neighborhood) is assigned to Butler High School and to relieve Butler have assigned the Piney Grove (North) back to East Mecklenburg High School. Projected enrollment: 1,668, Facility Utilization: 104%, and Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 52%.
 - Butler High School: Utilization: 112%, Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 30%.
 - East Mecklenburg High School: Utilization: 115%, Free and Reduced Price Lunch:

51%.

- Independence High School: Utilization: 129%, Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 44%.

Mr. McCully said there have been some capacity adjustments based on student-weighted staffing and many of those have been adjusted down as a result of the free and reduced lunch percentages.

Chairperson Griffin noted that these were new considerations for the new Mint Hill high school and they are not the only options under consideration by the Board.

Board members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

- Mr. Merchant asked that the demographic breakdown also include student achievement data. Dr. Gorman said with the information provided by Dr. Cobitz staff can now include student achievement and he will ensure the Board gets the revised data. Mr. Merchant said his concerns are building utility, operational efficiency and sustainability because there will not be another new school in this area for ten or more years based upon the budget restraints. Another component to sustainability is buy-in from the public. He said a number of parents in Charlotte and throughout the country reassign themselves to the school that they want to attend by moving but not everyone can take that step. He expressed concern that ultimately in decisions like this many people believe they have had something done “to” them and not “for” them. He said to make a good decision that includes building utility, operational efficiency, and gets the largest measure of buy-in from the public we have also enhanced sustainability. Mr. Merchant said regardless of the demographic data and the Board reaching a common ground in their decision, if there is not buy-in from the public he is concerned people will move or go elsewhere.
- Mr. Tate thanked staff for the new maps. Mr. Tate said this involves not just buy-in from the community for a new school but also buy-in for the existing schools. He wants to ensure the new school boundaries do not hurt schools that are already on the edge such as East Mecklenburg and Independence high schools. He said many parents have expressed concern that they will not be able to remain at East Mecklenburg High School and are concerned about the future feeder patterns for elementary and middle schools. Mr. Tate wants to ensure the new plans do not hurt any of the other schools. He has also heard from many of the Independence High School families are concerned that the changes may negatively impact their school. The revised maps propose some changes that are good as well as some changes that are troubling. This decision does not just impact a new high school because it also impacts four other high schools. Board members have discussed options that include other schools but at this time that is not being considered. Mr. Tate said the Board is attempting to do the most thorough job possible utilizing the Board’s Guiding Principles which serve as a guide for student assignment decisions. Mr. Tate said as he moves forward he will continue to discuss these options and other options with the Board members, staff, and the community. Mr. Tate said at this point, we are still in a search mode to find the end result and he is happy that the Board has worked together as a Board, individually with staff, and with the community to find a workable plan that includes community buy-in for all four high schools.
- Mr. Gjertsen asked that the new maps be posted on the CMS Website. Dr. Gorman said they would be posted by the next day. Mr. Gjertsen said regarding process, staff will present a recommendation to the Board at the August 11th Board meeting and he asked that

the proposed recommendations be posted on the CMS Website prior to the meeting so that the community can review the recommendations in advance of the meeting. Dr. Gorman said the proposed recommendations will be posted on the CMS Website in advance of the meeting. Dr. Gorman said the recommendations are still being tweaked and staff will be available to answer Board members questions.

- Mr. White expressed concern that staff was accused of using different standards for different parts of the County but that is not true. CMS is a school system with 138,000 students that the Board represents and that includes approximately 51% free and reduced priced lunch students. There are approximately 7,000 to 8,000 free and reduced priced lunch students in these four school and all the percentages are high which means the districts of those four schools must be in the high 40% range for free and reduced lunch status. This may not be true in the northern portion of the County. Mr. White asked Mr. McCully to affirm that the procedure for developing school boundaries are basically the same regardless of where a school is located and it begins with reviewing boundaries for elementary schools and how they feed into middle schools and high schools. Mr. McCully said CMS is comprised of 134,000 students and 138,000 including the Pre-K, and nearly 550 square miles. Mr. White said the Pre-K students should be counted because it is important to do a good job with them or else that may result in more students that drop out of school. Mr. McCully said the demographic composition is different throughout the County. When the boundaries were considered for the northern portion of the County we were under a totally different set of circumstances, the demographics were much different, and it included the relief for two schools. This portion of the County is a more complex situation because it includes different demographics and more schools to relieve which makes the boundary options more complicated. Typically, when new schools open they are full or close to full and there is not a lot of flexibility and wiggle room which can make creating a boundary much more challenging. This is a big County and the circumstances are different throughout the County.
- Ms. McGarry thanked the people from Mint Hill and the surrounding area for their attention to this matter. She said this has become a politically charged issue and those people are focused and looking at the facts. She encouraged the Board to work together to develop a reasonable decision. She said the public has asked good questions and they would like to know why CMS has proposed opening Bailey Road High School under capacity and the new Mint Hill high school over capacity yet both schools are slated for tremendous growth. Mr. McCully said both areas are slated for high growth. There are more students in the eastern portion of the County and the schools are more overcrowded. The situation is different in the north and CMS has the flexibility in that part of the County to open a high school a little under capacity in order to accommodate the expected future growth. CMS does not have that flexibility in the east portion of the County. Ms. McGarry said some of the schools on the chart are under capacity, do not have expected growth, and she hopes staff will continue to review the data between now and August 11th. Dr. Gorman asked which schools are under capacity because all the schools are over 100% capacity? Dr. Gorman said a factor that impacts the northern portion of the County is that CMS opened Mallard Creek High School and that relieved overcrowding issues and we are now opening another high school in that area. Ms. McGarry said she stands corrected and there are some schools that are more at capacity than over capacity. Ms. McGarry believes the boundary options need further work and she encouraged staff to continue to review boundary options. She is happy the information will be posted on the Website because this will create

transparency for the community in understanding the process for staff and the Board in developing boundary options.

- Mr. Merchant said an issue that impacts capacity in this boundary consideration is the free and reduced priced lunch percentages are higher than Bailey Road High School. Mr. Merchant asked clarifying questions regarding building classroom capacity, putting students in seats, and economic status. Mr. McCully reviewed capacity using student-weighted staffing in which free and reduced priced lunch students counts as 1.3 students, at 100% capacity every teacher gets their own classroom, and at 133% capacity every classroom would be in service every class hour of the day and there would be teachers floating and that facility would be fully utilized every hour of the class day. As there are more students who qualify for free and reduced lunch and the formula applies, the less capacity there will be in that specific facility. Mr. McCully said after 133% capacity the school would be considered for mobiles. Dr. Gorman said it is not uncommon to assign mobiles to a school before it reaches 133% because every classroom cannot be used for the same utilization but at some point you must start adding mobiles. Mr. Merchant said there is very little classroom capacity from proposal to proposal and he asked clarifying questions regarding classroom capacity. Mr. McCully and Dr. Gorman provided clarification on classroom capacity, ensuring classroom space for teachers, scheduling classes, and school utilization.
- Mr. Gjertsen asked clarifying questions regarding the impact on academic offerings for students with the boundary changes. Dr. Gorman said the course offerings at the new Mint Hill high school have not been determined. The core academic programs are the same at all schools and the electives will be determined based upon demand. There will be some variation from school to school. Mr. Gjertsen encouraged that the decisions consider the needs of students in that area.
- Chairperson Griffin said she has been on the Board for twelve years and this has been the most difficult and complicated boundary to develop. She said as a Board we are committed to getting the best decision possible but the proposed boundaries needs more work. She said the maps represent change and she encouraged the public to provide feedback. These are new maps but all the proposed boundary options are still being considered. Chairperson Griffin said she shared the concerns of Mr. Merchant because the days of telling people where they will go to school are gone. This is an age of choice and it is important to the Board to have community buy-in.

Dr. Gorman said staff is available and will continue to be available to answer Board member questions. Dr. Gorman thanked the Board, staff, and the public for their time and extra attention to this matter.

VI. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gorman said staff is continuing to work on the proposed budget. The Conference Committee has been working on reductions and a revenue package at the State level. The Governor has not agreed to that package and the negotiations and revisions are continuing. On Monday, CMS received the 20th Executive Order from Governor Perdue establishing budget management restrictions and another freeze. Staff is currently holding the issuance of any State purchase orders and staff is meeting with the Department of Public Instruction to get more details. Dr. Gorman does not believe CMS has any other choice but to continue down the path that CMS has been going. Staff is moving ahead with reductions in Tiers 5 and 6. He

has directed staff to operationalize the following reductions totaling an additional \$15.3 million which pushes CMS to the \$100 million mark in reductions. The Board previously directed staff to reallocate the ARRA funds for Title I and Bright Beginnings and that has been completed. Staff has eliminated the Expanded Day Program at Billingsville and the parents have been notified; eliminated transportation for field trips and discussed that within those organizations (the Junior Achievement and Discovery field trip); eliminated grandfathering transportation and adjusted bell schedules at Northwest School of the Arts and J. T. Williams Middle School and parents have been contacted; eliminated fifteen literacy coaches; reduced Building Services positions by sixteen; reduced the Mentor budget; eliminated Curriculum and Instruction positions; reduced the Human Resources Department by another three positions, the Communications Department by another two positions, and eliminated a position in the Magnet office; eliminated CTE equipment and reduced funding for equipment for the 2009-2010 school year; reduced State technology funds; and reduced the formula for counselors and secretary positions. Staff is continuing to review additional reductions for CMS TV-3, Praxis, Middle School Athletics, Middle School secretaries, eliminating ninety-seven more teaching positions, using SafeLight funding, and eliminating 199 more teacher assistants. Dr. Gorman said these actions are needed until we know what is going on with the State budget and we must take these actions at this time. Dr. Gorman said we must complete the budget soon because we are reaching a point in which we will be unable to undo certain reductions should that become an option.

VII. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Kaye McGarry will hold her monthly meeting “Kaye About Town” on July 30th at the Starbucks Coffee at Birkdale Village in Huntersville, North Carolina (Exit 25 off I-77) from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. to discuss school related issues and to answer questions. She hopes everyone is enjoying their summer and she thanked the community for parenting and grandparenting.

Trent Merchant welcomed Mark Reed, new headmaster at Charlotte Country Day, to Charlotte. Mr. Reed will be a great leader in the city and a partner in the community focusing on education and ensuring the best for children. Mr. Merchant said the Board has an opportunity to move forward to re-image CMS functions that include the way we build schools, the way we use sites, and sharing resources. We have technology in which a student does not need to be physically present in a classroom with a teacher to take that class. Technology now allows us to share classes across multiple schools in different formats that may include highly paid master teachers. He encouraged the Board to think outside of the box, otherwise, the box will be our coffin.

James Ross visited sites in which students were participating in summer activities and it was great seeing CMS students participating in events outside of classroom. He visited a math and science class at UNC-Charlotte and was impressed with the sophistication of the Science Projects presented by middle and high school CMS students. He participated in the Yosemite Summer Program for students from ages 5 to 16. He was impressed with the learning activities planned for these students because this will help them be prepared to return to school in the fall ready to learn.

Joe White said CMS continually has school districts throughout the country that hold CMS in high regard and select CMS personnel to lead their school districts. He congratulated Jonathan

Raymond, Chief Accountability Officer, on his recent appointment as Superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District in California. Mr. White commended Dr. Gorman, Frances Haithcock, James Pughsley, and Dr. Eric Smith for being superintendents who selected highly qualified and outstanding people to work with CMS and providing them an environment in which to work and hone their skills to be leaders in other districts. CMS is considered to be one of the leading school districts in the country. Mr. White congratulated Maurice Green, Dr. Ruth Perez, and Jonathan Raymond on their appointments as superintendents.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tate moved that the Board adjourn the Regular Board meeting, seconded by Ms. Mitchell-Walker, and by consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The Regular School Board Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Molly B. Griffin, Chairperson

Nancy Daughtridge, Clerk to the Board